

North Hampton Conservation Commission
Draft Meeting Minutes
10-12-21

Administrative

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Members present: Lisa Wilson (Chair), Kathy Grant (Vice Chair), Frank Arcidiacono, Audrey Prior, Phil Thayer and Andrew Vorkink. Members of the public included Walter and Lisa Eltzroth Nordstrom.

Approval of September 14, 2021 Meeting Minutes: After the review of the minutes, ***a motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to accept the minutes as written.*** The motion carried with Phil Thayer abstaining.

New Business:

Recognition of Nordstrom Eltzroth Woods Conservation Land Donation: Lisa Wilson presented Walter and Lisa Eltzroth Nordstrom a plaque to thank the Nordstroms and express the Commission's appreciation for their generous donation of 39 acres of conservation land to the Town. The Nordstroms attended the meeting to thank the Commission and acknowledge the work of Andy Vorkink and the commissioners to help conserve the acreage.

Old Business:

Conservation Easement Subcommittee Update: Andrew Vorkink reported that he and Phil Thayer have posted at least 100 of the new signs to include conservation boundary, no hunting, and town-own conservation land signs along Oliver Brook Trail and along several other areas. The Commission is waiting to receive a report from the Building Inspector following his September 12, 2021 inspection of a tree cabin built at Map 20, Lot 3 on conservation land which has been rented as a commercial property. The Building Inspector said that he planned to send to the Commission a copy of his findings following the inspection. Once Lisa Wilson receives the report, the Commission will send a letter to the owner requesting confirmation that the cabin will no longer be rented as a commercial property. ***A motion was made by Andrew Vorkink, duly seconded by Kathy Grant, to authorize the Chair, pending a report from the Building Inspector, to send a follow up letter to the property owner of the cabin.*** The motion carried.

Oliver Brook Trail Update: The SCA Ameri-Corps crew completed the Oliver Brook Trail during "two hitches" – two different SCA Crews camping during each 10-day work period with work beginning on September 14, 2021 and completed on October 8, 2021. The two crews of young men and women cleared a trail to the Little River Conservancy and constructed 750 feet of bog bridges. The trail highlights a fascinating wetland system across Oliver Brook, an old stone road, which meanders past a marshy area and then on to uplands to the granite outcroppings of the 24 acres Little River Conservancy donated by Wendy Higginson in memory of her grandmother. The Commission extends special thanks to Larry Miller and Judy Day for providing the crew access from their property to help construct the bridges near the 15' access strip to the Little River Conservancy. The Commission is especially appreciative for the help it received from John Hubbard and the Public Works Department to pick up and deliver the extra lumber and for constructing the parking area at the entrance earlier this year. The Commission thanked its project partners to include Home Depot, Eldredge Lumber, the SCA-Ameri Corps, the NH BOT, the Select Board, and John Hubbard and the Department of Public Works Department. Members of the Commission have been invited to attend a recognition ceremony on October 28 at Bear Brook State Park in New Hampshire to honor the young individuals who have done an outstanding job working for the Student Conservation Association.

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Trail Maintenance Update: Phil Thayer reported that someone has cut down trees on conservation land on the Lafayette Crossing conservation easement and shared photos of a foundation for a fort-like structure built on the property located off Route One. He noticed that leaves and debris have been dumped near the entrance of the Lafayette Crossing trail. He also reported that the Eagle Scouts were not able to work on the Dustin trail this past summer and that he plans to remove the trees that are hanging over the Oliver Brook bog bridges at the beginning segment of the trail. The Chair will contact the owner of the Lafayette Crossing easement and the property owner in the vicinity of the dumping near the Lafayette Crossing trail entrance and report back to the Commission.

Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage Update: Frank Arcidiacono reported on the multiphase project to improve the Philbrick Saltmarsh. The contract was sent to the Town for this project which is to be completed between November 15 and March 15, 2022.

Other Business:

Lisa Wilson reported a \$400 invoice for annual dues was received from the NH Association of Conservation for yearly renewal. ***A motion was made by Kathy Grant, duly seconded by Phil Thayer, to authorize the Chair to continue its membership pay the invoice.*** The motion carried.

September 14, 2021 Non-Public Session to discuss the possible acquisition of conservation land: Lisa Wilson reported that she was not able to schedule a meeting with the owners of the property.

2021 Septic System Inventory: Robert Pruyne reported that he was able to gather more data from the NH DES to help complete the project.

2021 National Resource Inventory: This project is scheduled to be completed in 2021. The file is too large to share via email and the Chair will explore sharing the large file with Commissioners via Drop Box.

Community Garden Invoice for Mowing: Phil Thayer will plan to submit the invoice to the Chair for payment.

Conservation Commission Donation and Grants: Andy Vorkink listed the 2021 projects for which the Conservation Commission has received a donation and grant funding. The Commission has been the beneficiary of 39 acres of land donated to the Town by the Nordstrom Family, a sizeable grant to construct the Oliver Brook Trail, and grants from the The Nature Conservancy, Moose Plate Program, and NH DES appropriated for the phases of the Philbrick Pond Saltmarsh Drainage project. The Commission expressed its appreciation for the generous donation and grants.

There being no further business to discuss, ***a motion was made by Phil Thayer, duly seconded by Audrey Prior, to adjourn the meeting.*** The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Beverly Moore
Recording Secretary

"These minutes were prepared within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by the majority vote by the Commission."